

F.A. Cup: tough hurdle at Croydon

FOLLOWING last season's record-breaking F.A. Cup run, the best in the 90-year history of the club, Wycombe Wanderers have a tough hurdle facing them in the fourth qualifying round of this season's competition on November 1 — away to Croydon.

One has only to glance at the Rothmans Isthmian League Division Two table to see what a formidable barrier Croydon present. So far this season they are unbeaten in 11 league outings, having won eight and drawn three. Another interesting statistic is that they have only conceded four goals in those 11 games while scoring 18.

So far in the cup, Croydon have beaten Erith and Belvedere 3-1 away after a 1-1 home draw, Bromley 2-1 at home while on Saturday they came away from Molesey with a 4-0 triumph. This was a sur-

prisingly good result considering Molesey had won at Walthamstow Avenue in the previous round.

One of Croydon's few defeats came in the F.A. Trophy recently when they were thrashed 5-1 away to Tonbridge, who were held to a 2-2 draw by locals Marlow in an earlier F.A. Cup round, before winning the replay 3-1.

Wanderers have played at Croydon before — back in the 1969-70 season. They met in the first round proper of the Amateur Cup and won 1-0 with a goal by Len Worley. This marked Len's last game for the club. The Blues went on to beat Tooting (after a replay) and Wealdstone but they lost 2-0 at home to St. Albans in the fourth round.

There are several familiar

names in the Croydon side. Dave Cobb is the goalkeeper. He spent several years at Tooting while Kelvin Rootes is another former Tooting man. Adrian Hill used to play for Kingstonian and Brian Woolley is an ex-Maidenhead and Tooting player. They also have two former professionals in their side — Cliff Hall of Charlton and Alan Price of Crystal Palace.

Croydon are managed by Les Sheppard who won an Amateur Cup final medal with Sutton United. Croydon secretary J. Milsted was well satisfied with the draw. "It's always nice to play a good footballing side like Wycombe and we're quite happy."

Mr. Milsted's counterpart Tony Mahoney, the Blues secretary said: "We would have

preferred a home draw of course, but this should be a good game and I regard it as quite a good draw."

Other interesting ties include Ilford's visit to Leatherhead, Wimbledon's home tie against Tonbridge or Kingstonian and Hendon's match against Canterbury City.

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pen
								Pts
								CD
Carlton	14	10	3	1	31	13	33	00
Harwich	14	8	5	1	28	15	29	00
Tilbury	11	8	3	0	29	4	27	40
Croydon	11	8	3	0	18	4	27	00
Chesham	12	8	2	2	34	12	28	30
Harlow	17	8	2	7	24	20	28	30
Horsham	16	6	7	3	27	15	26	20
Hampton	15	7	4	4	23	14	23	50
Boreham	13	6	4	3	20	16	22	40
St Albans	15	5	6	4	17	16	21	20
Finchley	15	5	5	5	15	13	20	00
Wembley	14	5	6	4	14	13	20	30
H'church	14	4	6	4	17	20	18	10
Bromley	16	5	3	8	23	27	18	100
Ware	17	5	3	9	20	33	18	44
Walton	16	4	5	7	20	20	17	60
Aveley	14	5	1	8	13	19	16	50
Wokingham	15	3	7	5	12	21	16	60
Harrow	15	3	5	7	26	33	14	20
Hertford	15	2	3	10	10	38	9	58
Maidhead	15	1	4	10	7	31	7	10
Casuals	16	0	2	14	13	44	2	10